

5. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said factors include the quality of radio communications between the first terminal and at least one of the first and second base stations.

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6. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 1, comprising quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of at least part of the first and second routes and providing an indication of that quality to the routing unit.

9. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

10. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 1.

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Add the following new claims:

12. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the said factors include the quality of at least part of both the first and second routes.

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13. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the routing unit is capable of comparing the quality of the first and second routes and making the

determination that the first terminal unit is to communicate with the second terminal unit via the first or second base stations in dependence on that comparison.

14. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the said factors include the quality of radio communications between the first terminal and at least one of the first and second base stations.

15. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the said factors include the quality of radio communications between the first terminal and at least one of the first and second base stations.

16. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the said factors include the quality of radio communications between the first terminal and at least one of the first and second base stations.

17. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the said factors include the quality of radio communications between the first terminal and at least one of the first and second base stations.

18. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the said factors include the quality of radio communications between the first terminal and at least one of the first and second base stations.

19. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 2, comprising quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of at least part of the first and second routes and providing an indication of that quality to the routing unit.

20. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3, comprising quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of at least part of the first and second routes and providing an indication of that quality to the routing unit.

21. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 4, comprising quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of at least part of the first and second routes and providing an indication of that quality to the routing unit.

22. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 5, comprising quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of at least part of the first and second routes and providing an indication of that quality to the routing unit.

23. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 12, comprising quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of at least part of the first and second routes and providing an indication of that quality to the routing unit.

24. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 13, comprising quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of at least part of the first and second routes and providing an indication of that quality to the routing unit.

25. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

26. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

27. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

28. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

29. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

30. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

31. A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least part of the first and second routes is implemented by packet-based communications links.

32. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 2.

33. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3.

34. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 4.

35. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 5.

36. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 6.

37. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 7.

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38. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 8.

39. A cellular telephony telecommunications system employing the telecommunications system as claimed in claim 9.

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